GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2758
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
ASSESSMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WORK
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for expediting the agricultural research work;

(b) the various works done under agricultural research during the last two years and current year;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether there is lack of agricultural scientists in the research sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) The Council launched several projects/programmes to address research issues to strengthen farming and farmers in the country. Some of these include:-

- Indian-US Knowledge Initiative to work on mutually reinforcing priority areas of agricultural education, research, service and commercial linkage.
- National Fund for Basic and Strategic Research in Agricultural Sciences to build capacity and for supporting research.
- Project on quality seed production in agricultural crops and fisheries located at SAUs and ICAR Institutes.
- Network Projects on Transgenics Crops and Insects Biosystematics.
- Launched Strategic Research Initiatives in Network Mode on Molecular breeding; Gene Pyramiding; Mycotoxins - Aflatoxin management; Alternaria blight - integrated management; Wilt - Integrated management; Tree Borne Oilseeds; Quality protein maize; Identification of Salt Tolerance Genes in Marine Tiger Shrimp etc.
- National Agricultural Innovation Project with the support of World Bank. (six years)

(b) & (c):

- Released 108 varieties and hybrids of crops during 2005 and 87 varieties in 2006.
- Produced 6 thousand tonnes of breeder seed and supplied 55.25 lakh saplings.
- Developed a low cost reliable and an efficient low energy precision application irrigation system.
- Conducted training programmes to update knowledge and skills of about 4.4 lakh farmers and extension personnel.
- Developed technologies for recycling/reuse of vast quantities agro and industrial residing for making pulp, paper, boards etc. from jute.
- First Mithun Calf borne in India through Artificial Insemination through efforts of ICAR.
- Developed rapid PCR based diagnostic for buffalo pox virus.
- Sequenced complete genome for 2 Asia 1 field isolates for Foot and Mouth Disease.
- Developed vaccine against the Bird Flue disease using cell culture. (better than the imported vaccine)
- Validated IPM technologies for different crops.
- Supplied more than 4 lakh fertile eggs/day chicks/grown up birds for rural poultry.
- Bred successfully yellow cat fish and spiny eel.
- Developed a generic soft-ware for Pest-Management Information System for

different crops.
- Hosted three major international events to promote research collaboration among organizations in different parts of the world.
- Sanctioned 42 new KVKs in rural districts during 2006 thereby raising their number to 546.
- Established a National Research Centre on Pomegranate at Sholapur (2005).
- Provided complete technological backstopping to the national efforts in rehabilitation of areas devastated by Tsunami.

(d) to (f): No, Sir. Research work has been managed by judicious redeployment of available scientific manpower. Steps have been initiated to get the vacancies in the scientific cadre filled up on top priority basis.